

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2 of the Second Extraordinary Session  
By West

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. Bennett Tarleton of Nashville.

WHEREAS, it is important that the members of this legislative body recognize those persons who through their professional endeavors have enhanced the lives of countless others in their community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett Tarleton is one such esteemed public servant, who has served for fifteen years, from 1984-99, as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, as the state's arts agency, the Tennessee Arts Commission performs many services, such as investing public funds in the state's not-for-profit arts industry through grants, providing services to artists, arts organizations, and arts supporters, and undertaking special projects and initiatives designed to improve Tennessee's quality of life, its educational programs, its economy, and its tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Tennessee Arts Commission, Mr. Tarleton was recognized by the Arts Management News Service in New York for his notable achievements in arts administration during the past decade by being the recipient of the Career Service Award in 1999; and

WHEREAS, he was also the recipient of the 1997 Gary Young Award, presented by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Each year the Gary Young Award recognizes a

person who in his or her endeavors as an executive director of a state or regional arts organization excels in his or her leadership role, displaying innovative thinking, with a sustained commitment to public support for the arts, and a dedication to diverse artistic expressions; and

WHEREAS, educated at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Mr. Tarleton gained his Bachelor of Arts in English Honors in 1965; he received his Master of Arts in Teaching in 1966 from the world-renowned Harvard University and has also completed graduate courses in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1969-71; and

WHEREAS, following graduate school, Bennett Tarleton taught Secondary English in Great Neck, New York; was an Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students at the University of Missouri-Columbia; was the Curriculum Developer and Coordinator of the Aesthetic Education Program at CEMREL, Inc in St. Louis; and was the Coordinator of the National Aesthetic Education Learning Center at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, from 1979-82, Mr. Tarleton served as the Director for the Alliance for Arts Education, a federally funded component of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts where it serves as a national network of more than fifty state-level committees composed of arts and/or education organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, as Executive Director of Dance St. Louis, from 1982-83, Mr. Tarleton was responsible for the not-for-profit organization's presentation of major American and international dance companies while still supporting education programs and providing services to the local dance community of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Arts Commission is feeling the void left by the retirement of this very talented Executive Director who, after serving for fifteen years, has moved on to become the Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement at the largest arts organization in the state, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, TPAC's mission is "to provide facilities, services, and programs of the highest quality for the greatest benefit of the people, institutions, and communities of the state, and to take a leadership role in fostering the performing arts, arts education, resident arts groups, and other arts organizations"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tarleton has many accomplishments of which to boast: he was a board member of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies from 1984-87, where he served as Secretary from 1985-87; from 1986-88, he served as the Chairman of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and he also served on that committee from 1995-97; in 1990, he was the Chairman of the Nominating Committee; in 1989, 1991, and 1995, he was the Representative to the Getty Center Biennial Arts Education Conference; and in both 1992 and 1993, he was a member of the Planning and Budget Committee; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart board member of the Southern Arts Federation from 1984-99, Mr. Tarleton served assiduously as the vice chairman for programs from 1986-90 and vice chairman for planning from 1990-92 and from 1995-98; he also served as chairman from 1992-94; and

WHEREAS, a Dance Advisory Panel Member of the National Endowment for the Arts from 1985-88 and in 1998, Mr. Tarleton has been the NEA Consultant since 1985. He also served from 1994-97 as a board member for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters; and

WHEREAS, he has been a member and consultant for the National Program Committee for Young Audiences, a board member of the Nashville Entertainment Association, Chairman of the Musical Arts and Entertainment Committee and he currently serves on the Advisory Committee on which he has served since 1991; and

WHEREAS, a former consultant for the Opera America's Education Program from 1986-94, Mr. Tarleton has also served as the Regional Chairman for the Alliance for Arts Education from 1988-92, and has also served on the National Governance Committee from 1992-94; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to honor and commend Mr. Bennett Tarleton for his many accomplishments and his dedicated service to the citizens of this state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Mr. Bennett Tarleton for his exemplary service to this state as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Arts Commission and wish him continued success as the Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.